

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW



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Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on populations that have traditionally lacked legal protection such as women, people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

To achieve Justice in Aging, we must:

- Acknowledge systemic racism and discrimination
- Address the enduring negative effects of racism and differential treatment
- Promote access and equity in economic security, health care, and the courts for our nation's low-income older adults
- Recruit, support, and retain a diverse staff and board, including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and presentation, sexual orientation, disability, age, economic class



ST. BARNABAS SENIOR SERVICES

OVERVIEW

Our Purpose

Why we exist:

To **empower a diverse community of older adults to Live Well, Feel Well and Age Well** in the community with dignity and respect.

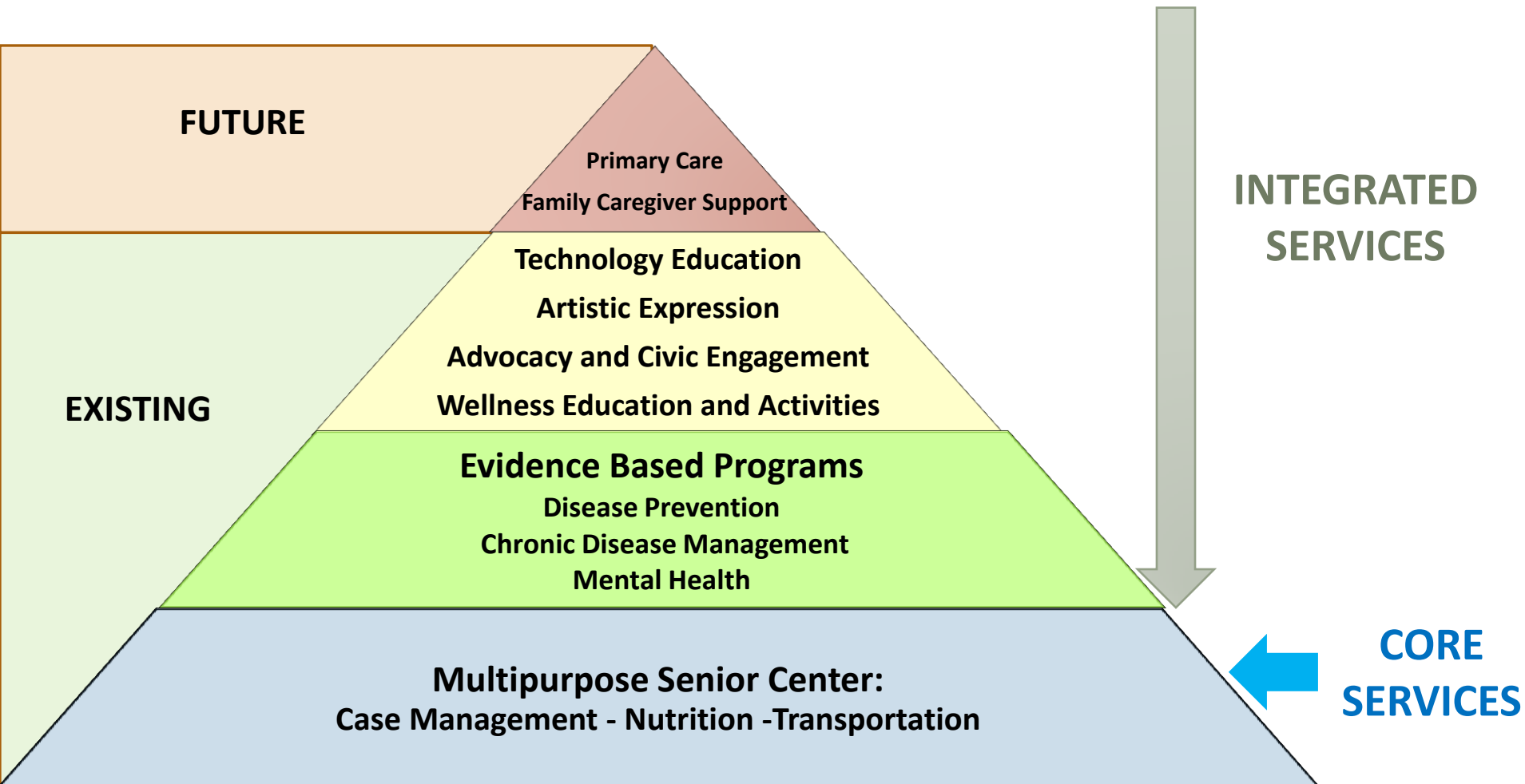
We achieve this through the delivery of a comprehensive set of transformative and quality services.

We prevent hunger, homelessness, depression, hospitalization, and institutionalization.



Service Model

SBSS Client Centered “Be Well” Service Delivery Model



History of SBSS

SBSS Founded over 100 yrs ago - 1908

Incorporated in 1965 as nonprofit, nonsectarian,
nonpartisan organization

Providing social services to older adults in the city of Los Angeles

Today: We serve over 18,000 older adults per year living throughout a contiguous 40sq. Miles in the city of L.A., Specifically, downtown, Koreatown, Westlake/Pico Union, Hancock Park, Echo Park, Griffith Park & Hollywood areas.

How did we get involved in advocacy?

Brandi, AGEnts for Change, and Jenny share their stories.

Why is advocacy important?

- You care
- You are an expert
- You are a constituent
- You are part of a greater whole
- Issues are important
- You have the power to change things!

YOU have POWER

- Seniors have power!
- #’s are power:
 - US: 1 in 5 will be 65+ (approx. 72M) by 2030
 - CA: 19% will be 65+ (approx. 9M) by 2030
 - LA County: 65+ population will double (approx. 2.2M) between 2010-2030 and be majority minority
- Elected officials LISTEN to people with power
- Make them listen: VOTE

Types of Advocacy?

- Phone calls
- Email
- Letters
- Petitions
- Scheduling meetings (with elected officials or community leaders)
- Coalition building

Why is speaking up important?

- Potentially connects you to a resource
- Fights paternalism
- Helps identify systemic issues
- Need change over time

Building Block of Advocacy

- Speak up!
- Cultural norms neglect the needs of seniors and presume they will not make a fuss
 - Notions of the happily retired, financially secure senior
 - Many seniors make do despite urgent needs.

Speaking Up

- Seniors often assume that even if they speak up, no one will listen to them, or that speaking up won't change anything.
- Think about the person on the receiving end. Is it someone who can help?
 - A family member? Another senior?
Someone connected to a resource?

Who will listen?

- For many seniors receiving social services and benefits, a team of people are specifically in place to help.
 - Can include, for example, a case manager, legal aid attorney, home delivered meals driver, health plan care coordinator, etc.
- Your elected officials
 - Remember: policymakers are accountable to you, their constituents

Harness your POWER

- Connect with each other
- Talk about issues that affect you
- Create communication chains
 - email
 - phone tree
 - organized groups

Use your POWER

- Join an advocacy group
 - AGEnts for Change
- Start an advocacy group
- Speak to your city council member
 - TELL THEM WHAT MATTERS TO YOU
 - TELL THEM YOUR CHALLENGES
 - WRITE THEM LETTERS ABOUT ISSUES

Make your voice heard!

- These are your issues
 - Speak up!
 - Get involved!
 - Don't assume they know
 - Tell them again and again

SSI Advocacy: How Can You Get Involved?

- Join Justice in Aging's network to stay informed
- Advocacy (e.g. administrative, legislative, and budget)
 - SSP grant and COLA restoration (CA AB 3200)
 - SSI Restoration Act (H.R. 3307)

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AGEnts for Change

- Group of advocacy seniors
- Speak at City Council

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